construction of ROBs, Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and inter-state issues and action has been taken against non-performing contractors.

Toll Policy for Highways

4688. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new Toll Policy for Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tolls are proposed to be charged on the basis of the construction cost of the roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Imported wheat received at Tuticorin Port

4689. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat imported last year from Australia was received at Tuticorin Port instead of Cochin Port Trust which are nearer and much before the Tuticorin Port Trust;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) the reasons for static handling of cargo by Cochin Port Trust in spite of its being on the strategic location on trunk route?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) During the year 2006-07, Tuticorin Port received 2.38 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia. During the same period Cochin Port received 1.1 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia. It is stated that Tuticorin Port is nearer from Australia compared to Cochin Port.

(c) The main reasons for static cargo growth at Cochin Port is its limited hinterland, which is also shared by the Major Ports of Tuticorin and New Mangalore. The southern region of Kerala forms part of the hinterland of Tuticorin whereas the Northern region is closer to New Mangalore. Moreover, the hinterland is neither industrially developed nor mineral rich to generate bulk imports of exports influencing cargo growth.

Construction of bypass

†4690. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct bypass in cities coming on the way between Ghaziabad and Lucknow like Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur and Sitapur;

(b) if so, the number of cities, out of them, in which bypasses have been constructed, if not, the names of the cities, and out of them, in which bypasses could not be constructed alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the said work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Construction of bypasses at Hapur, Moradabad, Shahjahanpur and Sitapur on National Highway-24 between Ghaziabad and Lucknow has already been completed. Bareilly bypass is proposed to be constructed as part of 4 laning of Moradabad-Sitapur section under NHDP Phase-III B, on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation for which has been taken up.

(c) It is too early to indicate the completion date of Bareilly bypass at this stage.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.